

ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Practice code 575



ANIMAL TRAILS AND WALKWAYS

Animal trails and walkways provide a travel lane through difficult or ecologically sensitive terrain.

PRACTICE INFORMATION This practice is installed on grazing lands as part of a conservation plan to accomplish one or more of the following:

1. Improve access to forage, water and /or shelter.
2. Improve grazing efficiency and distribution.
3. Divert travel away from ecologically sensitive and/or erosive sites.

Trails or walkways are often needed where animal movement is impeded or restricted because of steep rough terrain, rock outcrops, dense vegetation, water, etc.

Detailed design criteria is available on the NRCS national practice standard. To familiarize you with the general concept, the following practice criteria is provided:

1. The structures will be wide enough for livestock movement and vehicles.
2. Soil erosion will be minimized during construction.
3. Supporting structures for water management will be provided.
4. Walkways will be constructed based on normal high water levels.
5. Walkway borrow pits will be staggered to provide access to grazing areas on either side of the structure.